



# Community Good Report 2024

# Our mission

We offer a unique venue for gatherings, exploration, learning and adventure, one that acknowledges, encompasses, and gives back to our diverse multicultural community.

Our trust, its facilities and its programmes support the uninhibited sharing of knowledge, culture and optimism – within our walls and

throughout our community. We understand the mana inherent in our South Auckland location; we celebrate this, we learn from it every day, and we contribute to it in any way we can.

Our campus is more than the sum of its facilities and greater than any single activity it enables,

a versatile space that allows the entire community to benefit from the transformative nature of experience.

Our belief in the concept of shared betterment helps us to make sure our venue is a place where horizons are expanded, adventures are enabled, and relentless curiosity is always encouraged.

*Thank you for your support as this enables a platform for long term financial stability. It is this sustainability that creates subsidised access to the facilities and programmes which are designed to engage with our community inspiring them to set a goal, follow through and achieve.*



# Kia ora

It is a great pleasure to present to you our Community Good Report for the year ended 31 December 2023. Our facilities remained busy with both commercial and community/schools' activity. This strong interest in Due Drop Events Centre and Vector Wero Whitewater Park has enabled the Trust to reach our goal of 100,000 students and youth through our discounted or free programmes by 2025 calendar year, two years earlier than anticipated.

We now look ahead to the new year with new targets of reaching our community with the addition of Waka Pacific Climb. Groundworks began in January 2024, before the state-of-the-art proprietary climbing system, developed in Germany by Kristallturm, is hopefully installed later in the year dependent on continued fund raising. The activities, being intertwined with the cultural elements, will make Waka Pacific Climb truly unique.

In April 2023, we hosted our first Wero Aquatics Extravaganza at Vector Wero Whitewater Park. This free community event saw 2,500 people attend, mostly local families who all got to experience the thrills of rafting, kayaking, paddle

boarding and more. After the event's success, we held a second similarly successful free community event in November, and plan to make this an annual occurrence.

The Due Drop Events Centre continues to be the largest venue-based schools and community programme provider for the creative arts and cultural events. This past year has seen 91,546 children and youth use this facility through access to subsidised workshops and activities as well as events and venue spaces. Our programme partners namely Royal New Zealand Ballet, Atamira Dance Company, Manukau Symphony Orchestra, Tim Bray Theatre Company, and Pacifica Arts Centre provided captivating experiences to students outside the classroom.

Vector Wero Whitewater Park is the largest schools programme provider in the world and this year we had 20,345 students and youth participating in our unique moving-water safety sessions. We continue to hold fast to our promise to the community that our subsidised water safety programme will be made available to every student of South Auckland at some time during their school education.

A warm thank you to all our supporters and sponsors, with special mention to Due Drop Foundation and Vector Limited as our esteemed naming rights partners. Without this support, and that of many other entities, we would not be able to make such a great difference in our community.



John Bongard *ONZM CRSNZ*  
Chairman



David Comery  
Chief Executive



# Due Drop Events Centre Schools' Programme

In 2023, the schools' and community programme enabled by the Due Drop Foundation provided 91,546 children and youth access to subsidised or fully sponsored creative arts events.

We were able to collaborate with the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Tim Bray Theatre Company, Pacifica Arts Centre, Nightsong, National Youth Theatre, Atamira Dance Company, Māori Myths by the Sandman and various schools with their Dance Concerts providing students with a wide variety of experiences.

The Trust with the support of the Due Drop Foundation was able to support schools and community events by assisting with artists' fees, venue hire, labour, and AV technical costs.

Along with our ongoing programme partners we are delighted to extend our schools programme to Duffy Books In Homes' already varied and successful, with our 2023 line up. We are excited to be building upon our schools' programme and believe these opportunities will enrich lives.

# Royal New Zealand Ballet

## DancewithMe

In September, the Royal New Zealand Ballet showcased their DANCEwithMe programme.

Rosehill Intermediate School, Stanhope Road School, Manurewa South School, Edmund Hillary School, Redoubt North School, and Prospect Primary School took part in the eight-week programme. Each week, an RNZB Dance Educator worked with each school to create a dance, culminating in a performance on stage at the Due Drop Events Centre in front of family, community and all schools participating in the programme.

This was a fantastic day as students stepped outside of their comfort zone to perform in front of their peers with enthusiastic students sitting in the audience cheering each other on.

*“This programme allowed for a high level of collaboration amongst ākonga and has enabled them to properly engage in the NZ Dance Curriculum by devising and refining their own dance and then performing it to an audience.” – Yvonne MacKinnon, Prospect Primary School.*



As part of the programme and collaboration between Waka Pacific Trust and The Royal New Zealand Ballet we provide free transportation to all schools involved to minimise any barrier blocking a school from registering and being a part of this programme.

This programme continues to be a highlight of the schools’ programme, and we are excited to again feature this with all spots claimed for DANCEwithME 2024!

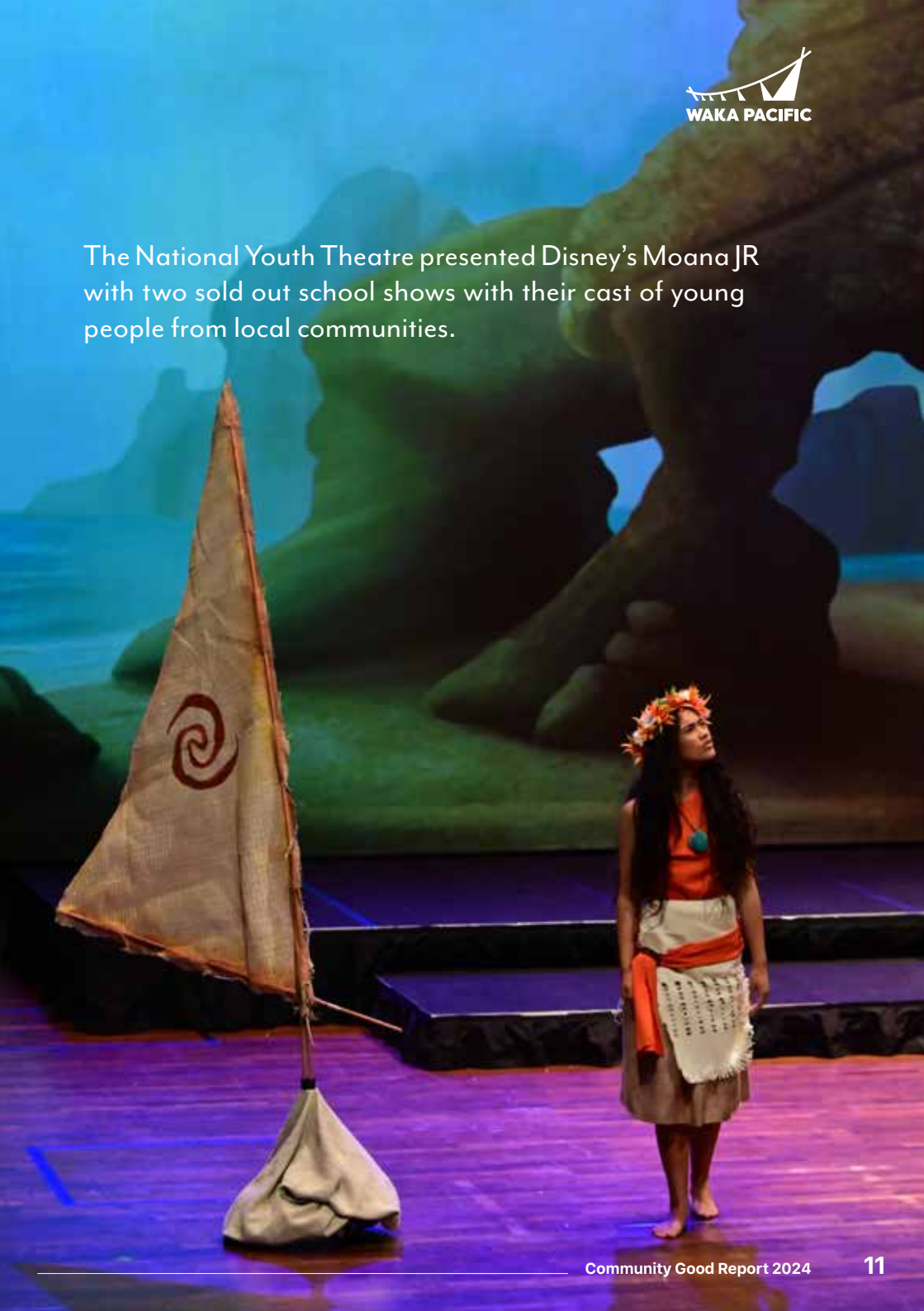
Waka Pacific Trust sponsored Rosehill Intermediate School, Hingaia Peninsula School, St Patrick’s School, Manurewa Central School, and Birkdale Primary School transportation to attend The Royal New Zealand Ballet show, Ballet in a Box.



# Tim Bray Theatre Company



The National Youth Theatre presented Disney's Moana JR with two sold out school shows with their cast of young people from local communities.



The Tim Bray Theatre Company presented The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch performances over three days with 24 schools and early childhood education centers attending. Of those, 727 school children from 22 schools attended through the Gift A Seat™ initiative, allowing students to access quality theatre at no cost.

A total of 37 schools and early childhood education centers attended the performances over four days, with 2,314 students claiming the free seats in the BNZ Theatre through Gift A Seat™.



After their successful April shows, Tim Bray Theatre Company closed our 2023 Schools' Programme with Roald Dahl's The Twits performances.

# Atamira Kori Pūrākau

Atamira Dance Company facilitated ‘Kori Pūrākau,’ a toi Māori dance workshop over four days, with eight schools from around the South Auckland area participating.

This biannual event introduces students to choreographic processes that explore telling a story through dance and movement. It derives inspiration from Pou Kapua or Cloud Pillar at the Due Drop Events Centre.

*“This workshop strengthened The Arts in our taura by exposing them to a different type of dance and being able to relate the learning to their Pacific & Māori cultures through story telling.” – Ayoshe Rogers, Mayfield Primary School.*



# Funfest

Tens of thousands of people flock every January to celebrate the new year at Funfest, Auckland’s only annual summer event with free entry, free parking, free rides, and free prizes.

Funfest is about bringing families and communities together in a positive environment. There is simply no other event that compares with Funfest in terms of attractions, scale, and social responsibility.

This is an annual event and one we will continue to support along with major sponsors Wiri Licensing Trust and Trillian Trust as an opportunity for our community to celebrate unity.



# Citizenship Ceremonies

The purpose of the Due Drop Events Centre is to be the meeting place of South Auckland, a venue where our community can gather, learn, and celebrate.

It is our honour to open our doors to our newest New Zealanders as they attend their Citizenship Ceremony and begin the next stage of their life. This is a celebration like no other, as families and friends gather to

celebrate those who have chosen our country to be their home. In 2023, 7,387 patrons attended the ceremonies, joining our community and our whanau.



## Due Drop Events Centre Statistics 2023



**91,546**  
children and youth engaged in school and community events



**\$717,225.74**  
total community good value



**131**  
schools participated in LEOTC programmes



**7,329**  
students registered for online educational resources





# Momentum Hub

The Manukau Symphony Orchestra and Counties Manukau Rugby League joined the Momentum Hub as our new fully sponsored tenants.

The Manukau Symphony Orchestra is a community orchestra based in South Auckland. With 80 musicians, some professional, others play for fun, they come together to present even the most challenging orchestral numbers to schools and the wider local community.

Counties Manukau Rugby League currently serves twelve clubs. A great many schools participate in Rugby League from as far north as Otahuhu and as far south as Tuakau.



## Our other partners at Momentum Hub

- John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams
- Hillary Outdoors
- Swimming NZ
- Tāwai Takapiri Connect Futures NZ
- Life Education Trust
- Canoe Slalom New Zealand
- YMCA Raise Up
- Navigate Performance



# Vector Wero Whitewater Park

Vector Wero Whitewater Park enjoys a long-standing commitment to providing the largest schools and community programme for whitewater experience in the world.

With the naming rights sponsorship and support from Vector Ltd we had a record-breaking year, with 20,345 students participating in our schools' programme and gaining vital water safety skills for life.

Fully sponsoring or subsidising our programmes for children and youth takes away the cost barrier enabling

all to learn survival skills in moving water. Activities such as river crossing, river safety, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, and rafting are all popular school activities but most importantly they teach vital survival skills while giving students a fantastic and memorable experience.

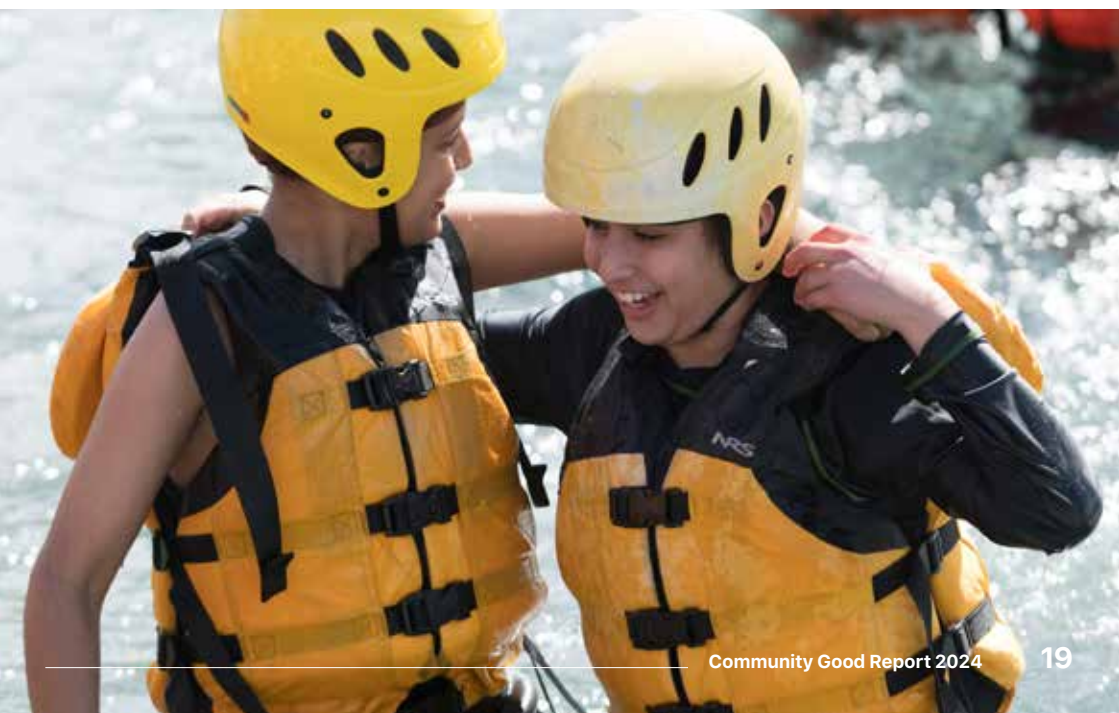


# John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation – Community Survive

In partnership with the John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation we more than doubled the amount of fully funded opportunities we were able to provide to children and youth from around the South Auckland area.

This programme enabled 4,876 participants to engage in white water rafting, white water river crossing and an optional swim in our Tamariki River.

*“I learnt that when you’re in a river, you can’t just swim, you need a friend to cross it with you.” – Mackenzie, Year 5, Manurewa Central School.*



# Water Skills for Life River Pilot

With support and sponsorship from Water Safety New Zealand and the John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation we successfully ran the Water Skills for Life River Pilot Programme.

Geared towards students from Year 5 onward, this programme encompasses river safety education and brings cultural significance, connection, and respect to the learning experience.

Through a circuit model, students gain skills in by-stander rescue, river crossing and river safety, whitewater rafting, and a controlled rip swim.



# Vector Wero Schools Pack

Vector Wero Whitewater Park strives to make our water safety programme available to every student of South Auckland during their school education.

To build on this goal, we developed the Vector Wero Schools Pack, a comprehensive pack that provides learning opportunities for pre and post trip lessons, research projects and STEM based tasks that are linked to the New Zealand Curriculum.

The Vector Wero Schools Pack has a large range of individual, group, and whole class activities alongside two teacher lesson plans to help prepare students for their trip to Vector Wero Whitewater Park and reinforce what they have learnt from their time on the water.



# Community

This year we supported our wider community through a variety of free public events and opportunities.

We were pleased to host two successful Wero Aquatic Extravaganza events, in April and November, which collectively saw approximately 4,500 attendees experience the thrills of rafting, kayaking and paddle boarding at no cost. It was a privilege to offer these free activities to our community, and for many this was their first whitewater experience.

With the support from the John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation and the Halberg Foundation, over 120 children and youth with disabilities and impairments engaged in on-water and on-land activities at Vector Wero Whitewater Park, at the first Making Waves Disability Water Day in November.

*“Thank you for allowing families an opportunity to experience activities that they never would otherwise be able to afford. There were so many people smiling, laughing, and having fun.”*



An event created with the vision of removing barriers, providing vital water-safety skills, and enabling children and youth of South Auckland living with a disability an opportunity they otherwise wouldn't receive. This is now an annual event and one we look forward to hosting to ensure every member of our wider community is catered for.

# Rescue and Response

The start of the year saw heavy rain inundate the northern and eastern areas of the country, which resulted in severe flash flooding across the regions.

We received a request from Fire and Emergency New Zealand, for equipment to support their emergency response to these freak weather events.

dry suits, and helmets needed to aid in their rescue and response with Cyclone Gabrielle, Auckland Flooding, Northland Flooding, and the Whangarei Caving Incident.

We were happy to oblige and supplied them with the whitewater rafts, rescue life jackets, throw bags,



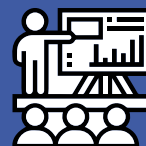
# Vector Wero Whitewater Park 2023



**178**  
number of schools



**\$897,505.75**  
total community good value



**20,345**  
children or youth attended free or subsidised programmes





**\$1,614,731.49**  
total community good value

# The highlights

## Due Drop Events Centre

- 91,546 children and young people attended or participated in events, programmes, competitions, concerts, graduations, and other activities held at the venue.
- We provided customised experiences for children and adults with autistic spectrum disorders and special needs.
- Community Good Value is \$717,225.74.

## Vector Wero Whitewater Park

- 20,345 students and youth have joined our whitewater and water safety programmes.
- 4,876 students participated in fully funded programmes.
- We provided customised activities for children and youth to learn survival skills in moving water.
- Our first Making Waves Disability Water Day was held, catering exclusively to those living with impairments and disabilities.
- Community Good Value is \$897,505.75

## Momentum Hub

- The trust hosted and co-sponsored, alongside the Joyce Fisher Trust, the Momentum Hub Leadership Academy. This unique and insightful programme ran across three terms and provided mentorship to 18 students from 6 schools within our community.
- Professional Development for Momentum Hub tenants again hosted and co-sponsored with the Joyce Fisher Trust.



# 100,000 students in 2023

We are pleased to announce we have achieved our goal of 100,000 students and youth through our discounted or free programmes two years earlier than anticipated.



This was a tremendous achievement, which couldn't have been possible without the support we have received from our programme partners, the dedicated and professional people who make up our team, and the wider community.

The Trust recognises the privileged position we hold within the community, and we take great pride in remaining steadfast to our promise of serving children and young people through events, the creative arts, whitewater and outdoor activities, whitewater safety programmes, leadership development, and sport every single year.

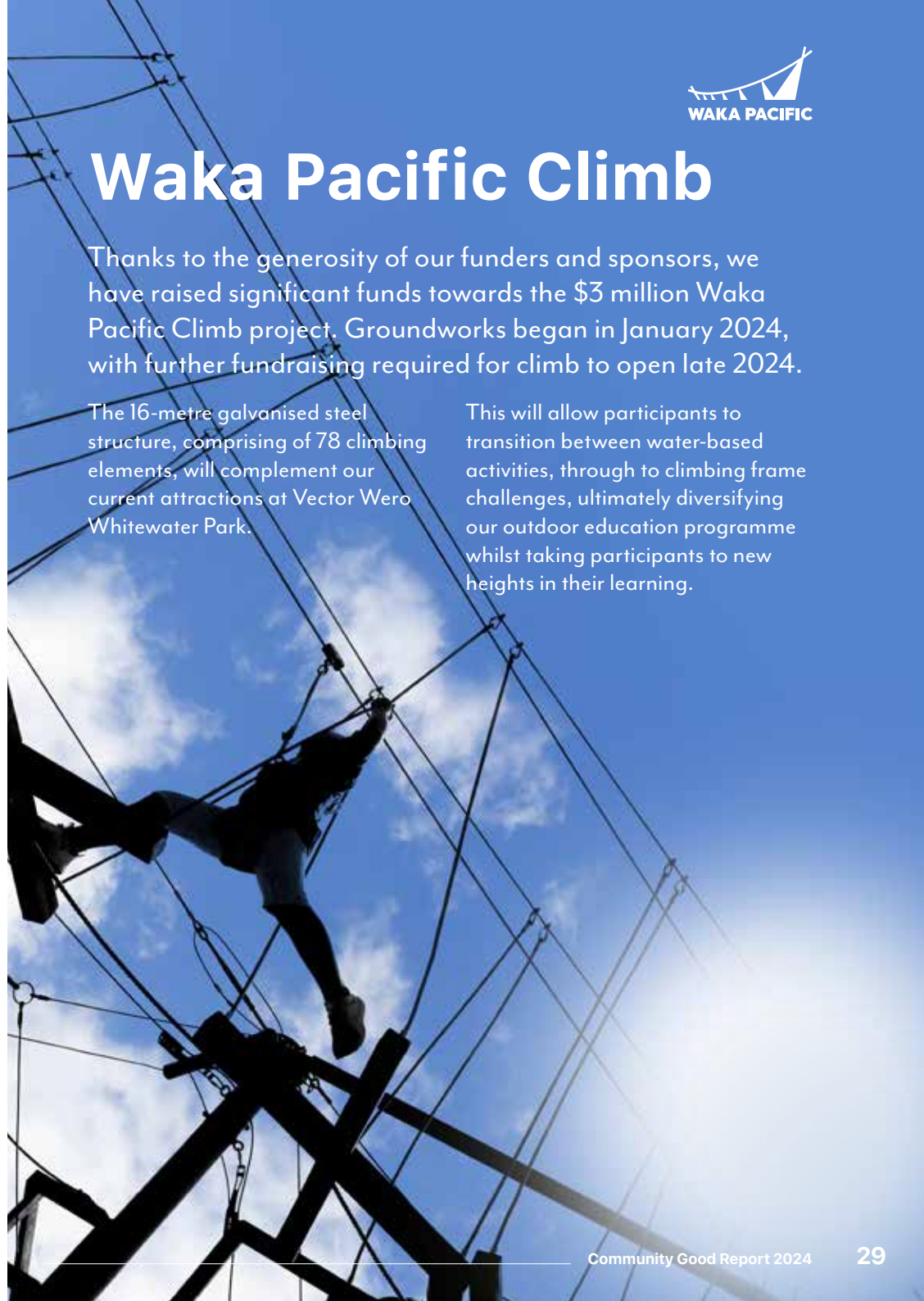
Our drive remains strong, as we now look ahead to the new year with new targets of serving our community with the addition of Waka Pacific Climb, alongside growing our programme partners to maximise our schools' and community programmes.

## Waka Pacific Climb

Thanks to the generosity of our funders and sponsors, we have raised significant funds towards the \$3 million Waka Pacific Climb project. Groundworks began in January 2024, with further fundraising required for climb to open late 2024.

The 16-metre galvanised steel structure, comprising of 78 climbing elements, will complement our current attractions at Vector Wero Whitewater Park.

This will allow participants to transition between water-based activities, through to climbing frame challenges, ultimately diversifying our outdoor education programme whilst taking participants to new heights in their learning.



# The challenge

We are pleased to announce we have achieved our goal of 100,000 students and youth through our discounted or free programmes two years earlier than planned.

While we are proud of our accomplishments, our drive is unwavering as we continue to serve children and young people through events, the creative arts, whitewater and outdoor activities, whitewater safety programmes, leadership development, and sport every single year.

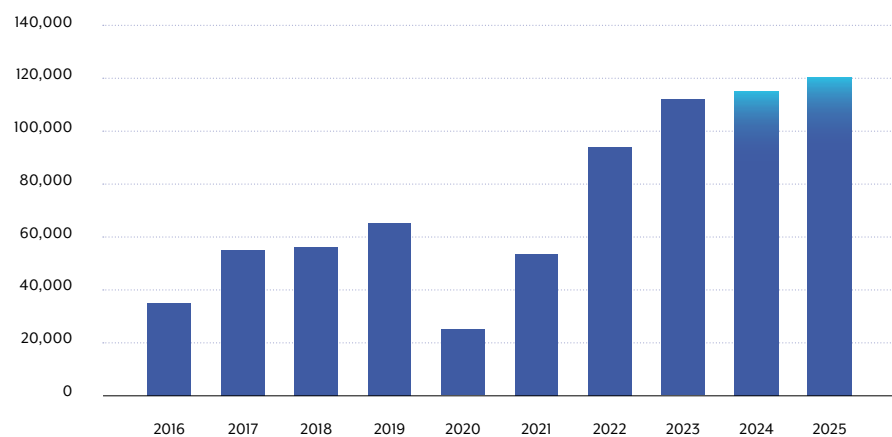
Growing on our achievements of this year, our new challenge is 120,000 students and youth by 2025.

We look forward to seeing our schools' programme continue to grow and develop by adding new programmes and fields providing opportunities for students to experience real world events and workshops.

**Join our Trust, whanau and communities and take the challenge!**



## 2023



## Thank you to our sponsors







**ONEFORONE**  
YOU EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

Every time you use our facilities you help support our youth through our water safety and creative arts programmes.

ONE of yours will make a difference  
FOR ONE of ours.



**WAKA PACIFIC**

**Waka Pacific Trust**

Proud custodians of Due Drop Events Centre  
And Vector Whitewater Park on behalf of the community  
770 Great South Rd, Manukau 2104

[www.wakapacific.org.nz](http://www.wakapacific.org.nz)

